

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final Office Action dated July 21, 2010 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, claim 1 is amended. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 8-9 are currently pending for consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,532,568 to Schutt et al. (hereinafter "Schutt") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,000,795 to Chung et al. (hereinafter "Chung"), U.S. Patent No. 4,338,157 to Kanda (hereinafter "Kanda"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,560,838 to Allies, Victoria R. et al. (hereinafter "Victoria"). Claim 3-6, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schutt in view of Chung, Kanda, Allies, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,869,313 to Jones et al. to (hereinafter "Jones").

The rejection of claims 1, 2, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schutt in view of Chung, Kanda, and Allies is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claim 1 is allowable at least in that this claim recites a combination of elements, including, for example, "an undiluted HF solution tank to be connected to the first tank to supply the undiluted HF solution to the first tank", "a water source connected to the first tank to supply the water to the first tank", and "the undiluted HF solution, the water, and the separated diluted etchant are respectively supplied to the first tank from the undiluted HF solution tank, the water source, and the second tank to from the first etchant, the amount of the undiluted HF solution, the water, and the separated diluted etchant being controlled by the control unit controlling the first tank based on the concentration measured by the concentration measuring device." Applicants submit none of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least these features of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and claims 2 and 7, which depend from claim 1 are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 3-6, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schutt in view of Chung, Kanda, Allies, and further in view of Jones is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 3-6, 8, and 9 are allowable at least by virtue of the fact that they depend from claim 1, which, as discussed above, is allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,



Valerie P. Hayes

Registration No.: 53,005

McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP

1900 K Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 496-7500

Attorneys for Applicant